(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had sought assistance amounting to Rs. 1226.50 crores for relief, rehabilitation restoration of public properties and improvement|upgrading of existing standards of flood bank|protective embankments etc. A ceiling of expenditure of Rs 132.37 crores has been approved.

Consensus on the reservation for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes

1707. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to arrive at a national consensus on the issue of reservations for Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes; and

(b) if so what are the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to review the Central Government's policy in regard to reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, in regard to reservations for Other Backward Classes the Government is of the view that the *status quo* should be maintained till a national consensus is evolved on the issue Detailed factual information on various aspects of reservations for other Backward Classes obtaining in all the States and Union Territories had been called for and the same have been received and compiled for further examination.

Body to identify strategic minerals

1708. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion for the setting up of a separate body to identify strategic minerals;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what steps Government propose to take to identify the mineral deposits in the country more speedily?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Sub-Committee of the Central Geological Programming Board of Geological Survey of India has been constituted to review, monitor and assign priorities for strategic mineral investigations/exploration. This includes members from GSI and all other National and State level Organisations dealing with exploration, exploitation, beneficiation and related problems of various strategic minerals.

Drinking water supply during strike period by C.P.W.D. workers

1709. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had put on duty some senior officers of the C.P.W.D. on 3rd September, 1986 to ensure that the supply of drinking water to the residents of Delhi was not disturbed by the striking C.P.W.D. workers on that day;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons that a number of residential colonies could not get drinking water at all on that day?